



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on South Ossetia

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 16, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We only learned this morning that the issue of South Ossetia would be raised. But, because we view this as a very important issue and have spoken on this in the past, we wanted to once again emphasize the importance for stability in that region that there be a swift demilitarization of the conflict zone.

That can be facilitated by an increase in the number of military observers. The current agreement allows for five – that number is clearly inadequate. We therefore urge the Chair to initiate action that would achieve that result.

I would add here that the United States strongly supports the renewal of the mandate for the Georgia Border Guard Training Program if Georgia so requests.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.